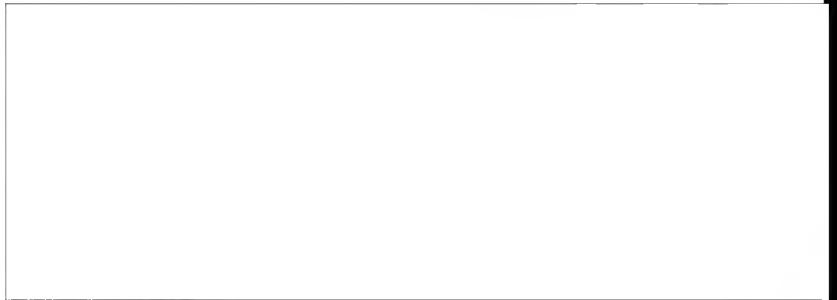




Director of
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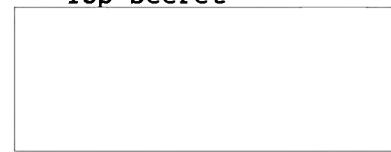
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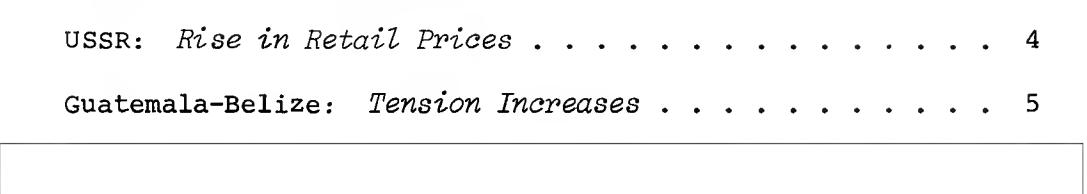
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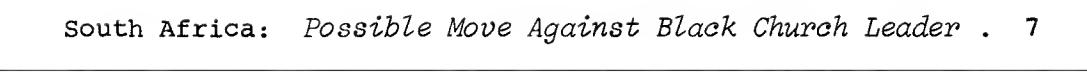
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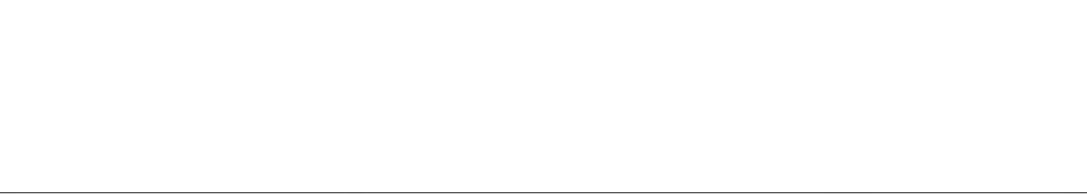


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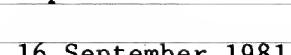


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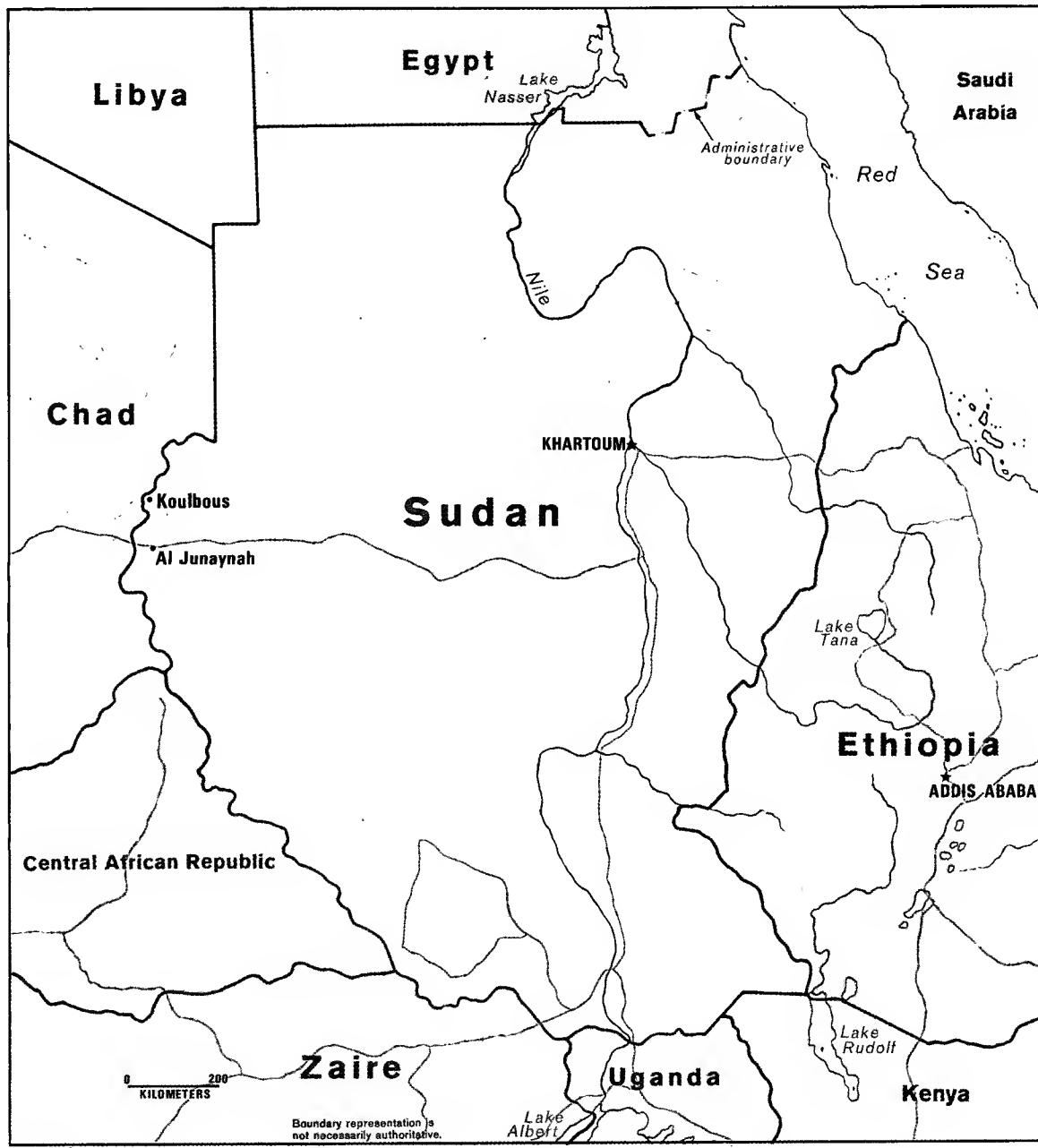


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LIBYA-CHAD-SUDAN: Cross-Border Airstrikes

Libyan airstrikes early this week against Chadian guerrillas in Sudan under the command of Hissein Habre could cause Khartoum to seek additional assistance against Libya.

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The Libyans evidently ordered strikes from bases in Chad after detecting the insurgent concentrations.

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[redacted] at least three attacks in the area of Koulbous and numerous other violations of Sudanese airspace. Sudanese air defense units fired on two Libyan aircraft that overflew Al Junaynah, another area where Habre's forces have been located.

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The guerrillas' recent military successes in eastern Chad probably prompted the Libyans to attack Habre's safe-havens across the border. The attacks may also be in retaliation for Sudanese support to Habre. The Libyans hope to stop the insurgency before the guerrillas can consolidate their gains and increase the threat to Libya's occupation forces.

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The Sudanese probably will consult with Egypt about the Libyan threat under the terms of the mutual defense pact of 1976 between Cairo and Khartoum. President Sadat has often promised to help defend Sudan against Libya, and he may offer to send fighter aircraft and air defense forces. The Egyptians also could reinforce their border with Libya to intimidate Qadhafi.

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CHINA-US: More Critical Propaganda Line

Foreign Minister Huang Hua's public reference to the US as "hegemonist" during the visit of Egyptian Foreign Minister Ali to Beijing last week highlights China's increasing desire to dissociate its policies from those of the US in the Third World. Since the normalization of relations with Washington, Beijing has almost exclusively used the term to criticize Moscow and its clients. Growing Chinese concern with US policy toward Israel and South Africa and with Washington's position on North-South economic issues, however, has prompted Beijing to apply the label to the US several times over the past few months. Chinese frustration over the Taiwan issue also may be a factor. Continued international attention to Third World issues at the UN and during the North-South summit is likely to reinforce this more critical line.

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USSR: Rise in Retail Prices

The price increases on selected consumer goods that took effect on Tuesday were imposed primarily to absorb excess purchasing power and to take advantage of the strong demand for luxury items. The official price hikes for such merchandise, on which black market profits are very large, ranged from 25 to 30 percent. The leadership is apprehensive about consumer reaction to higher prices because of the Polish situation, and it repeatedly has denied rumors that food prices will go up. It was careful to accompany the announcement of the hikes with decreases in prices for some basic goods. Although the government declared that price increases of 17 to 27 percent for alcohol and tobacco were intended to cut their consumption, which account for a substantial share in Soviet household expenditures, purchasing power among Soviet citizens is now large enough that consumption of these items is unlikely to change.

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GUATEMALA-BELIZE: Tension Increases

Some Guatemalan leaders are again taking a hard line on Belize, and their tough talk is likely to persist during the next few days as the colony approaches independence on 21 September. The Army Chief of Staff, responding to pressures from influential rightists, recently declared that Guatemala would never recognize the colony's present boundaries. He also charged that a British reconnaissance aircraft had overflowed Guatemala City in an act of provocation. 25X1

The British reportedly are responding to the heated rhetoric by dispatching a Royal Marine unit to the colony, a move that will add to the tension. Guatemalan President Lucas, however, is maintaining a conciliatory public posture. Despite their bellicose statements, most Guatemalan military leaders realize that they are incapable of attacking Belize as long as they are faced with growing insurgency at home. 25X1

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USSR-CUBA: New Head of Soviet Military Mission

The USSR has raised the status of its approximately 2,000-member military advisory group in Cuba by the appointment of Colonel-General V. N. Konchits to head that mission. He is the highest ranking Soviet officer to be assigned this position. The appointment, which follows a substantial increase in military deliveries this year, presumably is part of the Soviet effort to ease President Castro's security concerns. It also may be related to Moscow's growing military ties with Nicaragua; Konchits could have some supervisory function over this activity.

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SOUTH AFRICA: Possible Move Against Black Church Leader

The South African Government may be planning to ban Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu as part of a crackdown against domestic critics. The Bishop is the secretary general of the South African Council of Churches, a multiracial group representing some 14 million South African Christians. Tutu has gained wide recognition as a black spokesman against apartheid. He criticized the government's recent destruction of squatter towns near Capetown, and the Minister of Police is trying to link him to the African National Congress, the exiled liberation group that recently has carried out a series of bombings in South Africa. A banning order, which would silence the Bishop by placing him under virtual house arrest, could cause a strong reaction at home and abroad--especially if he carries out his threat to defy the order and is jailed.

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